

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Initially the undersigned would like to thank Examiner Behrend for the courtesies extended during a personal interview held with the undersigned on June 6, 2005. In the aforesaid interview, the undersigned was greatly aided in addressing the rejections and objections the Examiner had made under 35 USC 112.

In the aforesaid interview, it was agreed that the "unit strips" of the present application would be referred to instead as "cell walls", and it was further agreed that the perimeter strips in their entirety (made up of intermediate cell walls 40' and corner cell walls 40" as clearly shown in the drawings) are what encircle the intersecting inner strips 30. The specification has been amended to consistently refer to the "cell wall" terminology requested by the Examiner, and to clarify any confusion as to the structure which encircles the inner strips. The specification and drawings have also been amended to clarify alternative use of reference numeral 30 to the inner strips and the cell walls (formerly unit strips) which constitute them. Cell walls of inner strips 30 are now referred to as reference numeral 30'. No new matter has been added.

In the aforesaid interview, the meaning of the term

"equiangular" was also discussed. It was pointed out that the specification clearly defines this term. However, the Examiner has requested that the term "conformal" be used instead. Since this appears to have the same meaning as the definition from the specification, this amendment has also been made to address the concerns of the Examiner.

In the course of the interview, the previous amendments to the drawings were also discussed, and with the understanding reached above it was also agreed that the drawing corrections previously submitted did not in fact contain new matter.

Approval and entry of the drawing corrections previously submitted, as well as further drawing corrections submitted herewith to remove the now-extraneous reference numeral 41 and new reference numeral 30', is respectfully requested.

With regard to the Examiner's prior art rejections, claim 1 is drawn to a spacer grid structure and, more specifically, to a structure wherein the outer wall, or perimeter strip, has cell walls containing grid springs to allow for conformal support of fuel rods by same. This is true even of the corner cell walls where the structure of the present invention advantageously allows for fuel rods to be conformally supported even in the smaller-sized corner cells. This subject matter is submitted to be allowable over the art of record.

Dependent claims 2-6 all depend directly or indirectly from

claim 1 and are submitted to contain allowable subject matter based upon this dependency and also in their own right.

In addition, new dependent claim 7 has been added and is drawn to a preferred embodiment of the present invention wherein the grid springs positioned on the inner strips are different from those positioned on the perimeter strips. New claim 8 has been added and specifies that the support part of the grid spring of the perimeter strip has a higher spring strength or force than the support part of the grid springs of inner strips. These features are particularly advantageous in that the structure of the perimeter strips is therefore made more structurally capable of withstanding the cross flows of coolant during operation. This is described in the specification, for example in paragraph [0037] (as numbered in the publication of this application and herein). No new matter has been added.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein

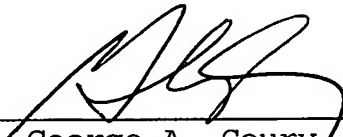
patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyung-Ho Yoon et al.

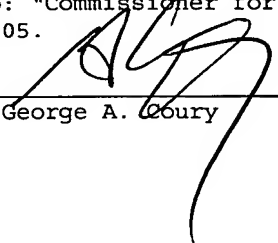
By



George A. Coury
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 28,395
Tel: (203) 777-6628
Fax: (203) 865-0297

Date: October 19, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on October 19, 2005.



George A. Coury

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 4, 5A, 5B, 6 and 8. In these Figures, reference numerals have been amended.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (5)
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (5)